he refused to return to England When the packet of letters reached the ambassador, bemg brought *by* one of my Lord's servants and delivered in his presence, he requned the packet to be opened forthwith, saying that he hoped there were letters for him Upon Sir Henry opening the packet, my Lord seeing a letter addressed to himself, snatched it out of his hands before he had time to read that letter of Sir Robert Cecil's which accompanied it The Queen hath hitherto been much displeased that her letter should have reached the Earl's hands thus, and by the hands of the Lord Treasurer had severely censured the ambassador Moreover the Earl speaketh very highly of the ambassador's good services to the Queen, who is thus appeased It is believed that his return to Court will make the Queen more favourable to helping the French King

*January* A PROCLAMATION TO REFORM ABUSLS IN THE CLOTH TRADE

A proclamation is published for the reformation of sundry abuses about making of cloths, called Devonshire kersies or dozens, ordenng that from the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady these cloths as they come raw from the weaver's beam shall weigh fifteen pounds at the least and contain between fifteen and sixteen yards in length

*%th January* A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO DEAL WITH IMPRISONED RECUSANTS

Owing to matters of greater weight and importance, to which the members of the Council are bound to attend, some prisoners suspected of being Jesuits or Seminaries from over seas remain for a long time without being thoroughly heard or examined, A special commission of twelve gentlemen,

amongst them Sir Richard Martin, Mr Sergeant Fleetwood, the Recorder of London, Richard TopclifTe and Richard Young, Is now appointed On any special cause three or more of them shall summon such persons before them, and for their better pro-ceeding the keepers of the prisons shall deliver weekly the names of such prisoners as they have received They meet once a week in some convenient place, either at the prison or some place near, to examine them on such information as they receive Moreover as some are prisoners at large, and some may